

I have no doubt that the United States and Kazakhstan will continue to closely cooperate in ensuring stability and security in the world, and our cooperation, which has tremendous potential, will deepen and bring about fruitful interaction in an international situation that is increasingly complex. The U.S. Congress should play a key role in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are at an important juncture in the relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan. We have an opportunity to remain engaged in the region. I strongly believe that we should acknowledge Kazakhstan's achievements and support them in their efforts to continue with reforms.

FREEDOM FOR CARMELO AGUSTÍN DÍAZ FERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Carmelo Agustín Díaz Fernández, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Fernández is a pro-democracy activist currently imprisoned in the tyrant's gulag. He is the president of the Independent Union Press Agency, editor of the Cuban Independent Trade Union Press Agency, and a member of the Christian Cuban Workers Union. He is also the correspondent for the Venezuelan magazine *Desafíos* and his articles have appeared on the CubaNet website.

As a leading independent journalist, Christian activist, and prominent member of the independent trade union movement, Mr. Díaz Fernández has been a constant target of the totalitarian regime. According to Amnesty International, he has been harassed and threatened with imprisonment for his pro-democracy activities. Simply because Mr. Díaz Fernández wants freedom for the people of Cuba, he has been persecuted by the dictator's machinery of repression.

On March 19, 2003, as part of the dictator's brutal March 2003 crackdown against peaceful Cuban pro-democracy activists, Mr. Díaz Fernández was arrested because of his work to bring freedom to the people of Cuba. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 16 years in the wretched, infernal, totalitarian gulag.

According to Reporters Without Borders, while he has been incarcerated in the inhuman gulag simply for his belief in freedom, Mr. Díaz Fernández has developed cardiovascular problems, lymphangitis and high blood pressure. The intolerably grotesque conditions of the deplorable gulag are threatening his life.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Díaz Fernández is languishing in a totalitarian gulag because he believes in freedom. He believes in freedom of religion, freedom for workers, and human rights for every Cuban citizen currently suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime. My Colleagues, it is intolerable that heroes like Mr. Díaz Fernández are locked in gulags because they believe in the most fundamental human right, freedom. We must demand the immediate release of Carmelo Agustín Díaz Fernández and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, I, along with many other Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have been pushing for congressional action to fix the international trade dispute over the extraterritorial income (ETI) and Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) programs. We have a bipartisan, fully paid-for remedy that would reform these tax provisions, put the United States tax code in compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and reduce the tax burden on American manufacturers and farmers. Unfortunately, the Majority leadership ignored this bipartisan approach in favor of a budget-busting, controversial bill that does little for small manufacturers in Wisconsin and includes multiple provisions completely unrelated to the trade problem we need to fix immediately.

Because of the House majority's previous inaction on reforming the FSC-ETI trade dispute, the European Union (EU) continues to ratchet up tariffs on nearly 100 categories of U.S.-produced exports. This costs American businesses and workers by making our products less competitive in the major European market. Unless we reform the FSC-ETI tax provisions, EU tariffs on American products will continue to climb, potentially costing American exporters over \$4 billion.

With over 2 million American manufacturing jobs lost since 2001, it is critical that we act to reverse this trend by eliminating incentives for American jobs to be sent overseas and working to end trade barriers that hurt American exports. Anticipating the EU tariffs, Congressmen CRANE, RANGEL, MANZULLO, and LEVIN introduced bipartisan legislation last year to address the FSC-ETI trade dispute. H.R. 1769, the Jobs Protection Act, would have eliminated the American tax breaks found in violation of WTO rules, and reinvested the savings back into American manufacturers by reducing their tax rates. I, along with 175 other Members of Congress, cosponsored this legislation and have pushed for the House to consider this legislation.

Despite this bipartisan compromise, the Majority leadership has brought to the Floor today a piecemeal, fiscally irresponsible bill that is filled with special interest breaks and will increase already record budget deficits. Further, the major provisions of H.R. 4520 provide over \$30 billion in tax incentives for large multinational corporations while providing little to no tax relief to small and medium-sized manufacturers, farmers, and unincorporated businesses. The Republican chairman of the House Small Business Committee has expressed his opposition to this legislation because it fails to include smaller non-Chapter C corporations in its manufacturing benefit.

Because of strong bipartisan opposition to H.R. 4520, the majority has attached 400 pages of additional tax reforms, complications, and unrelated add-ons that dilute from our important mission to fix the FSC-ETI trade dispute, add tens of billions of dollars to the budget deficit, and curb potential investment in our manufacturing sector.

Some of the additional provisions included in H.R. 4520 are items that I have consistently supported including a temporary incentive to repatriate overseas profits in the United States, and extensions of important tax benefits such as the research and development tax credit, wind and biomass electricity production credit, Work Opportunity tax credit, and small business expensing rates. I am hopeful that these items can be acted on by the House separately from this unacceptable legislation.

The substitute authored by Congressman RANGEL was based on the bipartisan FSC-ETI reform bill, H.R. 1769, and would have included extensions of the R&D tax credit, renewable energy production credits, increased small business expensing provisions, tax deductions for teachers, and other important tax provisions. Further, the substitute would provide better treatment of small businesses, farming cooperatives, and domestic manufacturers, while not adding to the federal budget deficit. Unfortunately, the Majority leadership did not even allow debate on the Rangel substitute fearing it would gain wide bipartisan support and displace the unrelated provisions included in H.R. 4520.

Mr. Speaker, with 2.7 million American manufacturing jobs lost over the past years, including over 80,000 in my home state of Wisconsin, we should not be playing partisan games on the House floor. We should be considering legislation that will end European tariffs on American exports, helps domestic farmers and manufacturers be more competitive, closes abused corporate tax loopholes, and does not burden our children with huge amounts of debt that they will have to pay off in the future. The Rangel substitute would do all these things. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4520 in its current form so that Congress can move forward on responsible ETI-FSC legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS ADJUSTABLE RATE HOME LOAN EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Veterans Adjustable Rate Home Loan Extension Act because I am committed to strengthening the home loan program that gives thousands of America's veterans the opportunity to achieve home ownership.

When most Americans purchase a home, they have a wide array of home loan options available to them. Through the home loan program administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), however, our veterans have limited options. It is my strong belief we should give our veterans the opportunity to select a loan that will meet their needs and make them more competitive—especially in expensive real estate markets.

My legislation would extend a VA pilot program allowing veterans to select adjustable rate mortgages (ARM). Veterans can purchase a home at lower interest rates saving them money. ARM home loans are particularly beneficial for veterans who do not intend to stay